/13 cont./

132 atmosphere immediately cools down and there begins a cold wind whose chill is increased as it passes through the region of hail, and since the maize stalks are still tender they are easily stricken. The hail that falls is big, the earth is churned up, and it kills birds, sheep, goats, and other animals, if they are unable to hide in the bushes or under thick trees, but this does not happen often nor every year.

[133] Earthquakes are most rare; I felt them twice during my stay in the region, in 1899 and 1909, but the wind is sometimes so strong that it seems to make the earth tremble; there is no doubt but that it tears up trees and strips them, ruins buildings, and dismantles tiled roofs. Foreigners in this [145] so hot and changeable climate soon age and turn gray, but the natives who are used to it from childhood, despite the vices of drinking and others to which they surrender, enjoy a relatively long and healthy life.

It can readily be understood from what has been said that here the seasons of the year follow a different order from that which is seen in the Old World. Despite the fact, then, that there are no more than two seasons, we always can and ought to consider the four, in order to follow the general rule of the universe which divides the year into four parts. Summer begins December 21, fall March 21, winter June 21, and spring September 21, but all of these come ahead of time, as anyone who has lived here can testify.

Fertility

133 182 311 312 361 The Aguaragüe range, which is found to the east and one league from the Mission of San Buenaventura de Yvu, is the last one in Chiriguano territory. Small towns and families of these Indians are scattered here and there are still found east of the said range some 15 leagues away, but beyond that /14/ there are none because the area is arid and dry, "igũi utini vae," as they say, and the Chiriguano accustomed to planting maize, beans, and gourds cannot live where there is a scarcity of rain for his crops and water for his daily bath.

/112 cont./

142 The Chiriguano at the time of birth has a color which is difficult to define, but, and let nobody laugh at this, his color is that of newborn mice, and as he grows the color changes until it is that of sunburnt parchment. The causes [147] of this change are the tropical heat, the sudden winds and changes, and the burning sun, to the action of which they expose themselves with untoward pleasure, with no bother and without fear, even should they be but tender infants.

441 147 From this it can easily be deduced that the Indian does not fear the canicular sun, or heat either; he works on the hottest days without shirt, trousers, or anything which re- [291] sembles these; he stretches out full length, very content, [516] receiving on his back the rays of the firey sun, and nothing daunts him. But when the north wind changes to the south and consequently the cold begins and the frost comes, he is very cowardly, and it is hard to make him work well and happily; in such cases it is easier to suspend the work for a few days, not to pay the laborers anything at all, and not to get uselessly angry; but this can only be done when the suspension does not have any bad effects (2). /Illustration appears here./

2. It is not only the Chiriguano Indian who hates the cold, but also the other races of America, such as, for example, the Quichua /Quechua/, according to what the historian Robertson says.

165 /113/ Life Span

The Chiriguano normally lives a good many years; he is little affected by heat, cold, and the inconstancy of the climate, nor by drunkenness and self-indulgence, to which capital vices he abandons himself from a tender age. Some [145] reach and pass 100 years, judging their longevity by their hair, since their hair does not turn white except at a very

[Text Continues on P. 156]

/113 cont./

165 advanced age, and I have seen Indians with the head com-
[145] pletely white, and others with a white the color of smoke or something smoked. In the performance of my ministry I have met and baptized many centenarians at the time of their death, and in the towns through which I have passed I have met several who fought in the Caraparí war and who witnessed the War of Independence.

273 But today the Chiriguano has degenerated greatly; in
276 somewhat distant times they did not know about either liquor
[178] or coca, and today both are general, and because of liquor and coca, the use of which they much abuse, they ruin their health and shorten their existence. Much youth disappears with the abuse of these substances, and as a general rule in the missions the best disappear, those who know some art or have some fortune; all that they earn, after buying their clothing (although not always), they invest in liquor and coca, and
[165] thus shorten their lives. I have seen towns where out of 40 or
[148] 50 young men of the same age there are scarcely two or three alive who will reach 50; it can thus be seen that the drunkenness produced by chicha is not so pernicious as that of liquor or alcohol, for which any tax imposed on them by the Supreme Government is never too much, and would that such a tax were higher, more general, and that it was not felt to be enough simply to write it out. In spite of this dissipated life, it is
[142] very rare that one encounters a bald Indian, which indicates
[147] great robustness (1).

1. I have known many large and small Chiriguano towns; I have only found three semibald persons.

Morality

181 At present the Chiriguano Indian differs slightly or not at all morally from the common mass of men. I mean that not all are good nor are all perverse; there are good ones and bad ones

C 165 /215 cont./
President Belzu in Sucre. The latter governed between 1848-1855; thus, 100-year-old Maringay is obviously not more than about 80. An 80-year-old Indian is therefore the oldest of his tribe.
C 145 Among the Indians one almost always sees /Fig. 112 appears here/ that the one who has grown-up grandchildren is very frail and senile and stands at the brink of the grave. Indian men and women
e [114] mature very rapidly, but also age quickly. At 50 the Indian is an old man, at 70 a so-called centenarian. Im Thurn (1) likewise

1. Im Thurn, op. cit., p. 190.

believes that the Indians do not grow old. /216/ He thinks that
e 142 they seldom reach an age older than 40 or 50.
Maringay's hair was slightly gray. There are some Indian
C [145 164] men and women whose hair is almost whitish yellow, but they are rare (Fig. 112). I never saw a bald Indian. When they are older, their faces are deeply furrowed. Not infrequently they become blind in old age, less often deaf.
Ee 142 515 Among the Choroti and Ashluslay the appearance of old people is often frightening; they are dirty, emaciated, and bleary-eyed. This is not the case among the Chané and Chiriguano. These Indians know how to grow old in beauty, and even the old people keep themselves nice and clean.
Ee 756 If the Chané or Chiriguano Indian becomes seriously ill, the medicine man is sent for, as among other Indians.
The Chiriguano and Chané distinguish between two kinds
Ee [754] of medicine men, whom they call "ipáye" or "ipáyepótchi." The former are good and lift the spell; the latter are able to lift the spell and to bewitch.
C 756 797 I once jokingly asked a Chiriguano whether Father Bernardino in Ivu was an "ipáye" or an "ipáyepótchi." The Indian answered dutifully, an "ipáye." The position of the missionary among the Indians is that of medicine man; he assumes their power and their influence.
C Ee 756 177 In the preceding I said that the whites in the vicinity of Ivu sent for an Indian medicine man to drive away smallpox.